



HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Re: Docket No. 12-EPIC-01

October 2, 2012

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED
12-EPIC-01

TN # 67491

OCT 02 2012

On behalf of Humboldt State University (HSU), the northern most coastal campus of the California State University (CSU) system, I am pleased to submit comments to the California Energy Commission on the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Proposed 2012-14 Triennial Investment Plan. These comments reflect information provided in the Plan and discussed during the webcast. Below are comments specific to HSU and then general comments about the overall process.

Humboldt State University is uniquely positioned to participate in a wide range of energy related projects; the Schatz Energy Research Center (SERC), an HSU institutional entity working to establish clean and renewable energy technologies, specializes in research related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, and hydrogen energy systems. Their work involves research and development, technology demonstration, project development, energy systems analysis, and education and training. The Telonicher Marine Laboratory, one of the seven waterfront facilities described in the CSU-COAST letter, supports marine and environmental science teaching and research. The lab provides ready access to the local marine environments of rocky shorelines, sandy beach and offshore kelp beds. A deepwater port located off the point provides an ideal location for marine wind and wave energy research. Its research vessel, the *R.V. Coral Sea*, is available for research; currently NOAA and USGS use the *R.V. Coral Sea* in a range of marine research efforts. Our engineering, forestry, wildland science, marine sciences and oceanography faculty are actively involved in funded research with NOAA, DOE, USGS, NSF and a number of state and local agencies in research that includes GIS, global networking, torrefaction, biomass conversion, and energy. HSU is also the home of the Northern California Small Business Development Center (SBDC), which manages several regional SBDCs throughout Northern California. We have expertise in the many proposed areas of research; some are outlined below:

- marine and coastal related research and education
- clean energy technologies (S1.1, S1.5, S3.3)
- transition from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy using biomass conversions methods including torrefaction, densification and pyrolysis (S3.2, S.3.3)
- biomass processing and handling systems, photovoltaic technology (S3.2, S3.3)
- marine renewable energy and offshore wind energy technologies (S4.4, S4.5)
- offshore energy generation's potential environmental impacts on marine species and habitats (S5.2, S5.3)
- electric vehicle infrastructure and use (S9.1, S9.2, S9.3)
- leverage regional efforts to support university and industry collaborations (S10.1, S10.2, S10.3)



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For the overall process, we encourage the transparent, open competition for available funds as EPIC program investments are made. The availability of funds as costshare for federal proposals is applauded as a mechanism to provide California with a competitive advantage for other funding opportunities. We also appreciate that the other designated administrators such as PGE will look for overlaps in efforts and try to identify ways to streamline process and work collaboratively with interested partners. We hope that interested parties, including institutions of higher learning, will be encouraged to collaborate and partner with industry, and we promote the funding of projects that address workforce development needs by including graduate and undergraduate students in research efforts.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these comments,

Sincerely,

Rhea L. Williamson, Ph.D.
Dean for Research
Office of Research and Sponsored Programs